

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image data outputting apparatus for outputting copy forgery preventing image data for preventing copy-based forgery, comprising:

storing means for storing a plurality of pieces of copy forgery preventing image data corresponding to image forming characteristics of a plurality of image forming apparatuses;

selecting means for selecting a piece of copy forgery preventing image data corresponding to ~~a~~-an image forming characteristic of an image forming apparatus specified for forming an image from the plurality of pieces of copy forgery preventing image data stored in the storing means; and

outputting means for outputting the piece of copy forgery preventing image data selected by the selecting means to the image forming apparatus specified for forming an image, ~~by printing, wherein:~~

~~the piece of copy forgery preventing image data includes at least a background portion constituted by a first pattern and a latent image portion constituted by a second pattern; and~~

~~the selecting means selects the piece of copy forgery preventing image data so that, when an image is formed by the specified image forming apparatus, the background portion and the latent image portion are almost equal in density.~~

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) An image data outputting apparatus for outputting copy forgery preventing image data for preventing copy-based forgery, comprising:

generating means for generating copy forgery preventing image data corresponding to ~~a~~an image forming characteristic of an image forming apparatus for forming an image; and

outputting means for outputting the copy forgery preventing image data generated by the generating means to the image forming apparatus for forming an image, ~~by printing, wherein:~~

~~the copy forgery preventing image data includes at least a background portion constituted by a first pattern and a latent image portion constituted by a second pattern; and further comprising a selecting means that selects a piece of copy forgery preventing image data so that, when an image is formed by the specified image forming apparatus, the background portion and the latent image portion are almost equal in density.~~

4. (Currently Amended) An image data outputting method for outputting copy forgery preventing image data for preventing copy-based forgery, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a piece of copy forgery preventing image data corresponding to ~~a~~an image forming characteristic of an image forming apparatus specified for forming an image from a plurality of pieces of copy forgery preventing image data corresponding to image forming characteristics of a plurality of image forming apparatuses stored in storing means; and

outputting the selected piece of copy forgery preventing image data to the image forming apparatus specified for forming an image, ~~by printing, wherein:~~

~~the piece of copy forgery preventing image data includes at least a background portion constituted by a first pattern and a latent image portion constituted by a second pattern; and~~

~~the selecting step includes selecting the piece of copy forgery preventing image data so that, when an image is formed by the specified image forming apparatus, the background portion and the latent image portion are almost equal in density.~~

5. (Currently Amended) An image data outputting method for outputting copy forgery preventing image data for preventing copy-based forgery, the method comprising the steps of:

generating copy forgery preventing image data corresponding to ~~a~~ an image forming characteristic of an image forming apparatus for forming an image; and

outputting the generated copy forgery preventing image data to the image forming apparatus for forming an image, ~~by printing, wherein:~~

~~the copy forgery preventing image data includes at least a background portion constituted by a first pattern and a latent image portion constituted by a second pattern; and~~

~~further comprising selecting the piece of copy forgery preventing image data so that, when an image is formed by the specified image forming apparatus, the background portion and the latent image portion are almost equal in density.~~

6. (Currently Amended) An image data outputting apparatus which outputs a piece of copy forgery preventing image data for preventing copy-based forgery to an image forming apparatus for forming an image based on a piece of forgery prevention target image data to be protected from copy-based forgery, the image data outputting apparatus comprising:

storing means for storing a plurality of pieces of forgery prevention target image data and a plurality of pieces of copy forgery preventing image data;

retrieving and selecting means for retrieving a piece of forgery prevention target image data corresponding to information transmitted from a terminal from the plurality of pieces of forgery prevention target image data stored in the storing means and selecting a

piece of copy forgery preventing image data corresponding to the retrieved piece of forgery prevention target image data and an image forming characteristic of an image forming apparatus specified for forming an image by printing; and

outputting means for outputting the retrieved piece of forgery prevention target image data and the selected piece of copy forgery preventing image data, wherein:

the piece of copy forgery preventing image data includes at least a background portion constituted by a first pattern and a latent image portion constituted by a second pattern; and

the selecting means selects the piece of copy forgery preventing image data so that, when an image is formed by the specified image forming apparatus, the background portion and the latent image portion are almost equal in density.

7. (Currently Amended) An image data outputting apparatus which outputs a piece of copy forgery preventing image data for preventing copy-based forgery to an image forming apparatus for forming an image based on a piece of forgery prevention target image data to be protected from copy-based forgery, the image data outputting apparatus comprising:

storing means for storing a plurality of pieces of forgery prevention target image data;

retrieving means for retrieving a piece of forgery prevention target image data corresponding to information transmitted from a terminal from the plurality of pieces of forgery prevention target image data stored in the storing means;

generating means for generating a piece of copy forgery preventing image data corresponding to the retrieved piece of forgery prevention target image data and an image forming characteristic of an image forming apparatus specified for forming an image by printing; and

outputting means for outputting the retrieved piece of forgery prevention target image data and the generated piece of copy forgery preventing image data, wherein:

the piece of copy forgery preventing image data includes at least a background portion constituted by a first pattern and a latent image portion constituted by a second pattern; and

the retrieving means retrieves the piece of copy forgery preventing image data so that, when an image is formed by the specified image forming apparatus, the background portion and the latent image portion are almost equal in density.

8. (New) The image data outputting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the piece of copy forgery preventing image data includes at least a background portion constituted by a first pattern and a latent image portion constituted by a second pattern; and

the selecting means selects the piece of copy forgery preventing image data so that, when an image is formed by the specified image forming apparatus, the background portion and the latent image portion are almost equal in density.